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1. A method of searching for medical information executed by one or more computers comprising the steps of:
  - a) formulating a record request for patient medical information;
  - b) forwarding the record request to a facilitator, wherein the facilitator reviews the record request and determines which patient record sources to contact;
  - c) contacting at least one patient record source with a record query electronically requesting information regarding a patient;
  - d) initiating an electronic search of medical records within the patient record source;
  - e) de-identifying the medical records retrieved from the patient record source; and
  - f) returning a patient record report containing information held by the patient record source, wherein the patient record report and the information returned therein is void of any identifying information.
2. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the information from the patient record source is not released before a physician gives approval.
3. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the information from the patient record source is released automatically.
4. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the facilitator receives the patient record report in a machine readable format augments the report before forwarding it to the requestor.

5. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the facilitator receives the patient record report and normalizes and augments the report before forwarding it to the requestor.
- 5 6. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the patient record source is a CIS.
7. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the patient record source is an EMR system
8. A method as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the search is conducted using software modules installed in a central server, CIS vendor server and a CIS.
- 11 9. A method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein if the search determines that the information is available at one of its sources, the information is forwarded in a patient record report to the requestor.
- 17 10. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the facilitator receives a patient record report and normalizes that report into a format acceptable to the requestor.
11. A method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein the facilitator receives patient record reports from several patient record sources and combines those reports into an augmented patient record report which is forwarded to the requestor.

12. The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the step of de-identifying comprises applying a de-identifying methodology to remove and make certain no personally identifiable information is released.

13. A method of searching for medical information executed by one or more computers, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) formulating a record query requesting information regarding an individual;
- b) forwarding the record query to a patient record source;
- c) receiving a patient record report from the patient record source, said patient record report being de-identified to remove identifying information.

14. A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein the patient record source is a computerized patient record manager.

15. A method as set forth in Claim 14, wherein the computerized patient record manager has contact with other patient record sources and queries those patient record sources before responding to the record query with a patient record report.

16. A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein the step of forwarding the record query and the step of receiving a patient record are carried out using secure and encrypted means for communication.

17. A method for providing medical information executed by at least one computer, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a record query requesting information regarding an individual;
- b) searching a registry of databases to locate the available records;
- c) obtaining the records;
- d) de-identifying the records; and
- e) forwarding the records to the requestor.

18. A method as set forth in Claim 17, wherein the step of receiving a record query comes from a voice telephone call supplemented by a form of authorization and verification.

19. A method for determining a location of a patient record created by a healthcare giver at a healthcare facility comprising the steps of:

- a) establishing computer network connectivity between a request facilitator central server and a plurality of healthcare facilities' databases, said plurality of databases being populated by information identifying the healthcare givers using the healthcare facility database and dates for which the healthcare giver was associated with the healthcare facilities' databases to the request facilitator;
- b) transmitting the identifying information from the plurality of healthcare facilities' databases to the request facilitator's central server including information indicating from which health care facility database the identifying information originates;
- c) creating a searchable index of the identifying information;
- d) submitting a request for the patient record to the request facilitator, the request including information identifying the healthcare giver and an approximate date of creation of the patient record;
- e) querying the searchable index based on the request to determine the location of the patient record; and
- f) identifying the location of the patient record.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the plurality of healthcare facilities' databases is operated by a healthcare facility.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the plurality of healthcare facilities' databases is operated by a CIS vendor.
22. The method of claim 19 wherein the identifying information includes the healthcare giver's DEA number.
23. The method of claim 19 wherein the computer network connectivity is established over the Internet.
24. The method of claim 19 comprising the additional step of releasing and transmitting the patient record from the location to the request facilitator.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the patient record is de-identified prior to it being transmitted.
26. The method of claim 19 comprising the additional step of releasing and transmitting the patient record from the location to a requestor making the request.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the patient record is de-identified prior to it being transmitted.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of releasing and transmitting the patient record is specifically authorized by an appropriate healthcare giver.
29. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of releasing and transmitting the patient record is by an appropriate healthcare giver is monitored for timeliness.
30. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of releasing and transmitting the patient record is automatically authorized by an appropriate healthcare giver.
31. The method of claim 19 wherein the location of the patient record is one of a plurality of computer information systems separate from the healthcare facilities' databases.
32. The method of claim 31 further comprising the step of additionally establishing computer network connectivity between the plurality of healthcare facilities' databases and the plurality of computer information systems.
33. The method of claim 32 wherein the healthcare facilities' databases are populated by identifying information transmitted from the plurality of computer systems where the patient records are located.